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Agenda item 53

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Algeria:* draft resolution

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007, 65/97 of 10 December 2010, 65/271 of 7 April 2011, 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 67/113 of 18 December 2012, 68/50 of 5 December 2013, 68/74 and 68/75 of 11 December 2013 and 69/85 of 5 December 2014,

Emphasizing the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made over the past 50 years in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities,

Recognizing, in that regard, the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be commemorated in 2018, which will be an opportunity to consider the current status and chart the future of the Committee's contribution to global space governance, and for which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies have set in motion the preparatory work for their thematic sessions in 2018,

* In its capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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Deeply convinced of the common interest of all humankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all humankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Deeply concerned about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris which is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in space,

Convinced that space science and technology and their applications, such as satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, and stressing, in that regard the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters,[2] and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Firmly convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as tele-health, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection, natural resources management and climate monitoring contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

[2] The term "disasters" refers to natural or technological disasters.

Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

Deeply concerned about the devastating effects of infectious diseases, including Ebola virus disease, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to enhance the role of space-based solutions, in particular tele-epidemiology, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

Recalling the fact that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, recognized the important role that space science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,[3]

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-eighth session,[4]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-eighth session;[4]

2. *Agrees* that the Committee, at its fifty-ninth session, should consider the substantive items recommended at its fifty-eighth session,[5] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

3. *Notes that*, at its fifty-fourth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,[6] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/85;

4. Agrees that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[7] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

5. *Urges* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[8] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their national law, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that the space law curriculum developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and published in all official languages of the United

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[3] Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 274.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20).

[5] Ibid., para. 360.

[6] Ibid., chap. II.C; and A/AC.105/1090.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), paras. 266-271.

[8] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

Nations could encourage further studies within governmental and non-governmental entities in support of capacity-building efforts in space law and policy;

7. *Notes* that, at its fifty-second session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,[9] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/85;

8. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[10] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

9. *Reiterates* the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity in predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, emphasizes the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact, and notes with satisfaction the establishment of and work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to implement the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat;[11]

10. *Notes with appreciation* that some States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[12] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217, and invites other States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

11. *Considers* that it is essential that States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, especially those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

12. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an

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[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), chap. II.B; and A/AC.105/1088.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), paras. 192-195.

[11] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), para. 153, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/68/20), para. 144; and A/AC.105/1038, para. 198, and annex III.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/62/20), annex.

essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

13. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, and agrees that the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Committee, at its fifty-eighth session, endorsed the plan of work of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2018 (UNISPACE+50), welcomes the establishment of the steering committee for the preparations for UNISPACE+50 composed of the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (the Group of 15), the Chairs of the working groups of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and encourages the steering committee to work with other experts, as appropriate;[13]

15. *Recognizes* the central role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in fostering capacity-building in the use of space science and technology and their applications for the benefit of all countries, in particular developing countries, and urges all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Programme on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to enhance the capacity of the Office to provide technical and legal advisory services in its priority thematic areas;

16. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2016, as endorsed by the Committee;[14]

17. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to 35 Member States within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), with the valuable contributions of its network of regional support offices, and encourages Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner;

18. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in which the value of space-based technology and Earth observation for disaster management and emergency response is recognized, and notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and its Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response programme towards promoting international cooperation as a way to enhance the use of space-based technologies and related services at the national and local levels;

19. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as executive secretariat of the International

[13] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), paras. 350 and 351.
[14] Ibid., para. 79.

Committee, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with appreciation that the International Committee marks its tenth anniversary in 2015 and will hold its tenth meeting in Boulder, United States of America, from 1 to 6 November 2015;

20. *Notes with appreciation* that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, namely, the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific, located in China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, located in India, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, with campuses located in Brazil and Mexico, and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, located in Jordan, have continued their education programmes in 2015, encourages the regional centres to continue to promote greater participation of women in their education programmes, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on their activities;

21. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to that end requests relevant regional organizations and their groups of experts to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out the recommendations of regional conferences, and in that regard notes the importance of the equal participation of women in all fields of science and technology;

22. *Recognizes*, in that regard, the important role played by organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the European Space Agency and by conferences and other mechanisms such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the Space Conference of the Americas in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States;

23. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including strengthening sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels and building resilience to reduce the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

24. *Reiterates* the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields, and recognizes that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation, including through efforts towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and contributing to the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Encourages* Member States, to that end, to promote the inclusion in those conferences, summits and processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data, with the involvement of the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

26. *Encourages* the Office for Outer Space Affairs to take active part in those conferences, summits and processes, and other activities in support of the objectives of UNISPACE+50, as appropriate;

27. *Urges* the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts;

28. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Office for Outer Space Affairs will issue a special report by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities[15] as pertaining to the United Nations system, and coordinate the preparation of that report with relevant United Nations entities;[16]

29. *Encourages* the Office for Outer Space Affairs to conduct capacity-building and outreach activities associated with space security and transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as appropriate, and within the context of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;

30. *Welcomes* the agreements made by the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee, at their respective session in 2015, to discontinue the use of unedited transcripts and to use digital recordings on a permanent basis and that the digital recording application should be further enhanced;[17]

31. *Endorses* the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2016-2017, and reiterates that the Committee and its subcommittees, at their respective sessions in 2016, should elect their officers nominated for that period;[18]

32. *Encourages* the regional groups to promote active participation in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies by the States members of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups.

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[15] A/68/189.

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), para. 339.

[17] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), para. 355.

[18] Resolution 69/85, paras. 29-31; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/70/20), paras. 353 and 354; and official communication from the Office for Outer Space Affairs to States members of the Committee dated 29 July 2015.